

# Law Reform: A New Safeguarding & Road Safety Bill

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 the House of Commons Public Bill Committee examined, and progressed, the **Taxis & Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding & Road Safety) Bill**.<sup>1</sup>

The proposed legislation is a **Private Members' bill** which was originally tabled by **Peter Gibson MP** on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. It aims "...to mitigate the risk that **unsuitable people** are granted or hold a taxi or private hire vehicle **driver licence**..."<sup>2</sup> by tackling situations "...where **licensing authorities might revoke the licences** of drivers for **wrongdoing**, only for the driver to **obtain a licence** from another authority, and then be able to **continue working**..."<sup>3</sup>

To that end, the Bill takes a two-pronged approach:

"First, it would **mandate** local licensing authorities to **record** taxi licence **refusals, revocations and suspensions** on a **national database**, which other local licensing authorities would be **required to consult** before making licence decisions about the same driver."<sup>4</sup>

"Second, it would **allow** local authority enforcement teams to **report** instances of **wrongdoing** by taxi drivers to the **authority** in which the **offender is licensed**. This licensing authority **must** then **have regards** to such a report and **respond** to it."<sup>5</sup>

In taking this stance, the Bill closely mirrors the **Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill**<sup>6</sup> put forward, unsuccessfully, by Daniel Zeichner MP in 2017. Like that Bill, the new Bill also has Government support<sup>7</sup> and will now proceed to the **Report Stage** and **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Stage** on **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**. It remains to be seen whether it will, ultimately, end up on the statute books.

If you want to check you are affected by any Taxi Licensing Law matters, please contact Travis Morley now on **01159 724928** or email [enquiries@travismorley.com](mailto:enquiries@travismorley.com) or visit [www.travismorley.com](http://www.travismorley.com).

## About The Author...

Neil Morley is a leading lawyer in Taxi Licensing Law who founded Travis Morley in 2010. He has consulted on national law reforms, government briefs and well-reported High Court cases. His opinions have been widely sought by trade organisations, businesses and individuals. He has been published in the Law Society Gazette and is a regular contributor to Private Hire News.



by Neil Morley

<sup>1</sup> Found at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0022/210022.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Page 12, 'Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill', Dr Roger Tyres, House of Commons Library, 8 September 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Page 4, 'Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill', Dr Roger Tyres, House of Commons Library, 8 September 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Page 5, 'Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill', Dr Roger Tyres, House of Commons Library, 8 September 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Found at <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2066>.

<sup>7</sup> 'Taxis Regulation: Question for Department for Transport' (UIN 73969), UK Parliament, 18th November 2021 (found at <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-12/73969>).



\*Travis Morley Associates Limited accepts no liability for any action or inaction taken based on this article by any individual or party and where such is taken it is done so at their own risk. We would always recommend, prior to taking any steps, seeking professional legal advice.